

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

Department of Health Services v.

Christine Stasulli, R.N.

License No. R17802

5302 Yale Avenue

Meriden CT 06450

CASE PETITION NO. 910320-10-013

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter the "Board") was presented by the Department of Health Services (hereinafter the "Department") with a Statement of Charges dated June 23, 1992. (Department Exhibit 3) The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut by Christine Stasulli (hereinafter the "Respondent").

The Board issued a Notice of Hearing dated August 11, 1992. (Department Exhibit 3) The hearing was scheduled for September 30, 1992, began on October 29, 1992 and was continued to November 18, 1992. (Hearing Transcript, October 29, 1992, pp. 6-8) The hearing took place in Room 112, National Guard Armory, Maxim Road, Hartford, Connecticut.

Each member of the Board involved in this decision attests that he/she was present at the hearing or has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record and their specialized professional knowledge in evaluating the evidence.

FACTS

Based on the testimony given and the exhibits offered into evidence, the Board made the following findings of fact:

1. Christine Stasulli, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, was issued Registered Nurse License Number R17802 on November 23, 1965 and was at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges the holder of said license. (Department Exhibit 5)
2. Pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, Section 4-182(c), the Respondent was provided full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of her license. (Department Exhibits 1 and 2)
3. The Respondent was aware of the time and location of the hearing. Department Exhibit 3 indicates that Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges were delivered by certified mail to the Respondent's address of record. Department Exhibit 4 indicates that Notice of Continuance of Formal Hearing was delivered to the Respondent's address of record by Constable.
4. The Respondent was not present at the hearing and was not represented by counsel. (Hearing Transcript, October 29, 1992, p. 2) (Hearing Transcript, November 18, 1992, pp. 2-3)

5. That from on or about February 6, 1991 to on or about February 28, 1991 the Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at Wallingford Convalescent Home, Wallingford, Connecticut.
(Department Exhibit 6 and 7)
6. That while employed as a registered nurse at Wallingford Convalescent Home the Respondent worked with the noticeable odor of alcohol on her breath. (Department Exhibit 7)
7. That while employed as a registered nurse at Wallingford Convalescent Home and while on duty the Respondent consumed alcohol. (Department Exhibit 7)
8. That on February 28, 1991 the Respondent resigned her employment at Wallingford Convalescent Home upon admitting that she suffered from alcohol abuse. (Department Exhibit 7)
9. That from on or about January 1971 to on or about August 2, 1990 the Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at Masonic Home and Hospital, Wallingford, Connecticut. (Department Exhibit 7, Attachment 7)
10. That while employed as a registered nurse at Masonic Home and Hospital the Respondent underwent in-patient treatment for alcohol abuse on two occasions. (Department Exhibit 7, Attachment 7)

11. That on July 17, 1990 the Respondent entered into a Condition of Employment with the Masonic Home and Hospital that required the Respondent to submit to a blood test for alcohol screening if she was suspected of working after having consumed alcohol.
(Department Exhibit 7, Attachment 7)

12. That on August 2, 1990 the Respondent submitted to a blood test the result of which was positive for presence of alcohol. The Respondent's employment at the Masonic Home and Hospital was terminated effective August 2, 1990 as a result of the positive blood alcohol screen. (Department Exhibit 7, Attachment 7)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In consideration of the above Findings of Fact, the following conclusions are rendered:

Christine Stasulli held a valid registered nurse license in the State of Connecticut at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges.

The Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges sufficiently provided information as mandated by the General Statutes of Connecticut Sections 4-177, 4-182 and 19a-17.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 54 and 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut as well as 19-2a-1 through 19-2a-30 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Notice of Hearing, Statement of Charges and the hearing process provided the Respondent with the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with all

lawful requirements for the retention of her license as required by the General Statutes of Connecticut Section 4-182(c).

The FIRST COUNT of the Statement of Charges alleges the Respondent, while working as a registered nurse during and prior to February 1991 suffered from alcohol abuse.

The Respondent was not present or represented at the hearing to answer to this charge.

The General Statutes of Connecticut Section 20-99(b) prohibits conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession, which includes "... (5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals...."

Based on its findings that the Respondent has a history of alcohol abuse including consumption of alcohol while on duty in the capacity of a registered nurse, the Board concludes that the Respondent's conduct as specified in the First Count Paragraph 3 is conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession and is a violation of the General Statutes of Connecticut Section 20-99(b)(5). Therefore, the Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut.

ORDER

Pursuant to its authority under the General Statutes of Connecticut Sections 19a-17 and 20-99, the Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby orders:

1. That for the First Count, the registered nurse license of the Respondent be revoked.
2. That the date of revocation shall become effective on April 1, 1993.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing finds the misconduct regarding Count One is severable and warrants the disciplinary action imposed.

The Respondent, Christine Stasulli, is hereby directed to surrender her Registered Nurse License No. R17802 and current registration to the Board of Examiners for Nursing, 150 Washington Street, Hartford CT 06106 on or before April 1, 1993.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing informs the Respondent, Christine Stasulli, and the Department of Health Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 10th day of March, 1993.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

BY

Janice A. Thibodeau

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